

Dr. Buzz Aldrin speaks at the Aldrin Elementary 20th anniversary celebration on Monday, June 8.

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FARMERS MARKETS 2015

WEDNESDAYS

Oak Marr Farmers Market. 8 a.m. - noon. Wednesdays, May 6- Nov. 18. Oak Marr Park & RECenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/viennamkt.htm>

Wakefield Farmers Market. 2-6 p.m. Wednesdays, May 6-Oct. 28. 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. 703-321-7081. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefieldmkt.htm>

Fair Lakes Farmers Market. 3:30-7 p.m. 4501 Market Commons Drive, Fairfax. www.greentowns.com/initiative/farmers-market/fair-lakes-farmers-market-fairfax-va.

THURSDAYS

Annandale Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Thursdays, May 7-Nov. 12.

Featuring a master gardener plant clinic on site to answer questions about plants and landscaping. Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/annandalemkt.htm

Herndon Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thursdays, May 7-Nov. 12. Twelve Vendors sell a variety of products including kettle corn and fresh made Italian pasta. Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn Street, Herndon. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndonmkt.htm

Fairfax's Government Center Farmers Market. 3-7 p.m. Thursdays, May 7-Oct. 29. Ten vendors including a Middle Eastern delicacy bakery and custom organic ice cream shop. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burkemkt.htm

parks/farmersmarkets/governmentcntr-mrkt.htm

FRIDAYS

McLean Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Fridays, May 1-Nov. 20. 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mcleanmkt.htm

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. Fridays, May 1-Oct. 30. Giant Parking Lot, 5955 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Vendors products include fresh organic honey and hand held pies and rolls. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstownemkt.htm

SATURDAYS

Burke Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon. Saturdays, May 2-Nov. 21. 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burkemkt.htm

COMMENTARY

Family-Friendly Voting

BY KENNETH R. "KEN"
PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



According to the Virginia Family Foundation, I am not a very "family-friendly" legislator. On their recently issued scorecard for 2014-2015, I scored 11 of a possible 100 points—up from my score of zero on their previous scorecards. While I consider family a central and critically important part of our society, I obviously differ with the Family Foundation on what they consider family values.

The Family Foundation uses the voting record of legislators on bills that "relate to the principles of life, marriage, parental authority, constitutional government, or religious liberty." Furthermore, such bills "must substantially benefit or harm the families of Virginia." The key to arriving at the score is which bills are included or excluded from consideration. You can review the scorecard for all members at <http://familyfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/2015-Report-Card-condensed.pdf>. In fact if you want to help distribute Report Cards in your church and community, you can request copies. The preface to the Report Card makes clear that "it is distributed for informational purposes only and is not intended to influence the outcome of any election. The Family Foundation Action does not advocate the election or defeat of any candidate and does not endorse any political party" as their non-profit, tax-exempt status requires. The Report Card does include an analysis of how members of the political party voted: Democrats in the House averaged 20 points; Republicans 92. In the Senate, Democrats averaged 14 while Senate Republicans averaged 92.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com by the Friday prior to the following week's paper.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 10

Reston - League of Women Voters meeting on affordable housing in Fairfax County. 7:30-9 p.m., North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. How big is the homeless population? How and when can we end homelessness? Join in the discussion. Free, open to the public. 703-757-5893. Background papers at www.lwv-fairfax.org.

THURSDAY/JUNE 11

Dialogs & Grammar: ESL for Advanced Beginners and

What family values does the Report Card reflect? If you support allowing the Governor to go forward with the expansion of Medicaid to provide health insurance for working poor families including their children as I do, you are considered not to be family friendly. Reliance on government programs is believed to break down the family unit. Same-sex couples are not considered a family unit by the Family Foundation. My co-sponsorship of a bill to repeal the marriage amendment that limits marriage to people of different genders took points away from my score. My bill that would have added sexual orientation to non-discrimination in state employment was also considered not to be family friendly as was a bill that I cosponsored to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Family-friendly bills that I opposed included a constitutional amendment that passed to allow the Board of Education to establish charter schools. It must be passed again and be approved by the voters before it becomes part of the Constitution. Another bill I opposed that would have repealed the law requiring an ultrasound before an abortion died in committee.

Missing from the Report Card were many bills that I thought would strengthen families. My bills to raise the minimum wage and to make the earned income tax credit refundable would have put money back into the hands of working people most of whom have children. Bills and budget amendments to expand preschool education would have been solid investments in the future of low-income families. Deciding on "family-friendly" legislation depends on your personal values. The Family Foundation Report Card does not reflect mine.

Intermediate Students. 11:45 a.m. 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Judy's Thursday weekly language class for adults, and learn English. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rr/>.

ESL Pronunciation and Speaking for Intermediate Students. 1 p.m. 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Sandy's Thursday weekly language class for adults, and learn English. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rr/>.

MONDAY/JUNE 15

ESL for Intermediate Students. 11 a.m. 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Richard's Monday conversational language group for adults, and learn English. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rr/>.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Aldrin Elementary Celebrates 20 Years

Buzz Aldrin himself attends elementary school celebration as a featured speaker.

BY CAMILLE KIDWELL
THE CONNECTION

Hundreds of students, ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade, flooded into the auditorium of Aldrin Elementary for a special assembly this past Monday, June 8. They were about to witness none other than Buzz Aldrin himself. Born in 1930, Aldrin was a lunar module pilot on Apollo 11, the first manned lunar landing in history. Being the second person to ever walk on the moon in 1969, students, teachers and guests alike were thrilled to have him speak in celebration of the school's anniversary.

The event began with the Reston Community Orchestra playing the Aldrin School Song, which is set to the tune of "Ode to Joy." Even the song commemorated the work of this famous astronaut. The children proudly and loudly sang: "Aldrin, Aldrin, school for learning, science space technology. We have dreams to all succeed at Aldrin Elementary!" The musical portion continued, as instructors then led students in singing "I'll Remember," a song that was published the year that the school opened.

"It's nice to be in a school where you re-



Aldrin Elementary School kindergartners wait for their assembly to start.

ally feel well cared for. I want to commend the staff and faculty at this school," said assistant superintendent Douglas Tyson. Volunteers and staff were then appreciated for their hard work in making this event possible, as were the teachers who had been with the school since its birth 20 years ago.

The featured speaker, Dr. Buzz Aldrin, then took the stage. He began by asking the children: "Did you notice something different when I did the pledge of allegiance?" The kids began to make the sign of a salute, screaming at the astronaut if they knew

the answer. "You know why I did that salute?" Aldrin asked, "It's because I'm a veteran!" He then began to tell the students of the importance of service, and how the oath he took at age 17 has motivated him to be the best that he could be. "No dream is too high for you!" he added. "I hope you remember your teachers. They have given a little bit of their lives for you. Without education, I wouldn't have had a chance. I want you all to make a legacy at Aldrin Elementary."

Aldrin then proceeded to make the chil-



PHOTOS BY CAMILLE KIDWELL/THE CONNECTION
Dr. Buzz Aldrin speaking at Aldrin Elementary.

dren giggle at his quirky jokes. "I wear a lot of funny things" he said, as he looked at his many beaded bracelets and necklaces. "I'm trying to be cool, because I think I'm cool! I think of new, different, innovative things." He spoke of his aspirations for the students to be the first on Mars, calling them the "Mars Generation."

The school held a reception after the assembly for alumni and guests later in the evening. Throughout the week, parents and volunteers will be coordinating '90s activities for the students during lunch and recess. The week's celebrations will end with an overhead group picture of the student body and rocket popsicles for all.

PetMAC Opens at Lake Anne with a Splash

Pet marketplace and adoption center comes to the Reston area.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Although Cindy Williams actually opened the doors to PetMAC, her pet supply and adoption center located in Reston's Lake Anne, in January of this year, the official grand opening was only recently celebrated - and done so in style.

The significant crowd that attended the May 30 event from 1 - 4 p.m. included almost as many pawed partyers as those on two feet. The wagging wanderers were happy to sample offerings from participating pet food vendors like Stella & Chewy's, Open Farm, Weruva, Answers, Golden Nugget Treats, Look Who's Happy Dog Treats, and Bear and the Rat (serving probiotic frozen yogurt for dogs). Their human companions got to enjoy a few treats, themselves, served up by the Culinary Cooking School of Vienna.

Pet owners were also able to pick up some tips on training, general care and health from the likes of the Hope Advanced Vet-

erinary Center of Vienna (experts in emergency and specialty veterinary care) Old Town School for Dogs, and the Just Cats Clinic, located in Lake Anne.

The highlight of the day's activities was the demonstrations by the aquatically inclined canine members of the Chesapeake DockDogs, a regional affiliate club of DockDogs, the organization that sponsors canine aquatic competitions around the country and the globe. It took some time, some maneuvering, and a volunteer named Zoey to set up and test a safe exit for the dogs from the waters of Lake Anne back onto dry land, but once the logistics were complete, the canine competitors made it clear they were more than ready to take a dive or two! Such was their enthusiasm that some of the "divers" had to be vigorously reminded to patiently wait their turn. The audience cheered as each pooch seemed to fly out over the water in chase of their particular toy. For those unfamiliar with the sport, the announcer explained the four disciplines of competition for DockDog

events: Big Air, Extreme Vertical, Speed Retrieve, and Iron Dog, which combines all three of the maneuvers.

PetMAC owner Williams couldn't have asked for better weather or a better turnout for her official grand opening celebration, moving her business to Reston after almost a decade in Arlington. The name of her establishment reflects not only the retail focus of her business, but its philanthropic purpose, as well. PetMAC stands for Pet Marketplace and Adoption Center. As someone who has been actively involved in animal welfare, rescue and rehoming for more than 20 years, Williams is excited to be able to bring this combination of quality pet nutrition, supplies and pet adoption opportunities to her new community.

Why not stop by and welcome her to the



Kevin Ruark admits that Team Bella is a small one - "Just me and Bella!" - but the duo have already had some successes despite being relatively new to the world of canine aquatic competitions. While Ruark was kind enough to patiently explain some of the specifics of the competitions, Bella was more interested in checking out the water and planning the strategy for her next dive.

neighborhood, pick up some treats for your furry family members, or maybe even add to the clan as a result of your visit!

PetMAC is located at 11412 Washington Plaza West at Lake Anne in Reston. For more information visit www.petmac.org.

OPINION

Bishops' Statement on Death Penalty Debate

To build a culture of life we must respect the sanctity of even "unlovable" lives.

BY BISHOP FRANCIS X. DILORENZO
AND BISHOP PAUL S. LOVERDE
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

This year, through the advocacy of the Virginia Catholic Conference, our Church spent considerable time opposing legislation related to the death penalty. The proposed measure would have permitted the Commonwealth to arrange with compounding pharmacies to mix drugs for use in executions, hiding from the public the identities of the pharmacies and materials used. Thankfully, this bill was defeated. So, too, was a measure the Virginia General Assembly considered last year — also opposed by the Conference — that would have forced death row inmates to be electrocuted if lethal injection drugs are not available.

Meanwhile, Pope Francis delivered a message which sharply contrasted these disturbing debates. "There is discussion in some quarters about the method of killing, as if it were possible to find ways of 'getting it right'," the Pope wrote in a recent letter about the death penalty. "But there is no humane way of killing another person."

Pope Francis' keen observation adds an exclamation point to the rejection of these "method of execution" bills. In Virginia, we are indeed having the wrong debate — a reality clearly visible in light of all we celebrate dur-

ing this Easter season.

In these final joyful weeks of Easter, the Church continues to celebrate the gift of eternal life offered through the Resurrection. In our pilgrimage to that life, we follow Jesus, who loved and forgave us from the Cross, by living out the teaching of our faith that all human life is sacred, from the moment of conception until natural death.

This conviction is reflected in our understanding that the poor and vulnerable have the first claim on our consciences, in our opposition to abortion and euthanasia, and in our responsibility to welcome immigrants and refugees. But our faith also challenges us to declare sacred even the least lovable among us, those convicted of committing brutal crimes which have brought them the ultimate penalty, the penalty of death.

The Church's teaching on the death penalty is succinctly stated in a 2005 U.S. Bishops' statement, "A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death:" "No matter how heinous the crime, if society can protect itself without ending a human life, it should do so." This statement is the teaching of the Catechism, and for decades Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis consistently have urged us to embrace it.

To be sure, this teaching challenges many people, including ourselves when we reflect on violent crimes and lives lost in senseless and unimaginable ways. The deep pain, grief and

suffering of those who have lost loved ones to violence cry out for our care and attention. More killing, though, is not the answer: The death penalty does not provide true healing for those who mourn, nor does it embody the Gospel of Life, which each of us is called to affirm even in the most difficult circumstances.

It is also important to note that people have been executed despite serious doubts about their guilt, and inmates who languished on death row for decades have been freed after their innocence was proven. Since 1973, some 152 death row inmates nationwide — including one in Virginia — have been exonerated. We must also be aware of the racial inequity inherent in the system, and that the death penalty has been administered to individuals with severe intellectual disabilities.

These circumstances further illustrate that, in Virginia and elsewhere, we are having the wrong debate. We should no longer debate which inmates we execute or how we execute them. Instead, we should debate this: If all human lives are sacred and if a civilized society such as ours can seek redress and protect itself by means other than taking a human life, why are we continuing to execute people?

By ending the use of the death penalty we would take one important step — among significant others we must take — to abandon the culture of death and embrace the culture of life.

As Pope Francis reminds us, there is no humane way of taking a life. Let us not choose whether to use lethal drugs, electric chairs, gas chambers or firing squads. Let us take the more courageous step and choose life instead, even when it seems "unlovable."

COMMENTARY

Kurspahics To Receive Civic Courage Award

Honored by the Bosnia Memory Project.

Kemal Kurspahic and his wife Vesna of McLean are being honored as recipients of the inaugural Civic Courage Award from the Bosnia Memory Project at Fontbonne University in St. Louis.

Kemal Kurspahic, the managing editor of The Connection, was editor-in-chief of the Bosnian newspaper Oslobodjenje during the three and a half-year siege of Sarajevo, between 1992 and 1995. He led a multi-ethnic staff that continued to publish a daily edition throughout the siege, despite the newspaper building being bombed and facing gunfire while trying to reach the office.

"They have stood for the kinds of civic ideas and ideals that characterize the best of Bosnia, Herzegovina and United States," said Dr. Ben Moore, director of the Bosnia Memory Project. "They really believe in journalism as a vital part of the civic sphere, that



Vesna and Kemal Kurspahic in Sarajevo in 2006 with old Turkish fountain — Sebilj — in the background. Bosnians in St. Louis have built a replica of Sarajevo Sebilj in their new hometown.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

people of all ethnicities and backgrounds can find common understanding."

Kurspahic's book about the experience, "As Long As Sarajevo Exists," is required reading for a course Moore teaches at Fontbonne. The Bosnia Memory Project started in 2006 as a response to the large community of Bosnians and their children — around 40,000 — that settled in St. Louis after the war.

"What he did during the siege of Sarajevo, keeping the paper running and refusing to yield to the chauvinism and bigotry, is an ongoing inspiration for what we're doing," Moore said.

The core of the project is producing an ongoing oral history to preserve stories and artifacts from the war and genocide. Another goal is to lay the groundwork for a center of Bosnian studies at the university.

"We have a second generation that's coming of age now," Moore said. "Twenty years after the war, they don't have an understanding of their parents' and grandparents' experience of Bosnian culture."

Vesna Kurspahic is the curator of "Documenting Hometown and Family History in Stari Majdan, Bosnia," a photography exhibition that Moore said is helping to show the "beauty and complexity of Bosnian culture and history."

The Kurspahics are being recognized at a June 13 dinner held at the Grbic Banquet Center, a Bosnian restaurant in St. Louis. Moore said he recently discovered Vesna's mother was a teacher and school principal to the owners, husband and wife, Sulejman and Ermina Grbic.

"This is a classic case of the recipients honoring the award more than the other way around," said Moore. "The challenge, with the plan to offer this award annually, is finding people who rise to the same level."

— TIM PETERSON

Reston
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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Community Reporter
240-393-2448
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

Ryan Dunn
Contributing Writer

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Trisha Hamilton
Display Advertising
703-778-9419
trisha@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



OBITUARY

Samuel Parvez Mall, 74, Dies

Well known Washingtonian, Samuel Parvez Mall entered into eternal rest on May 22, 2015. Born Jan. 29, 1941 in Lahore, Pakistan, Mall was the son of an Anglican Priest and the youngest of four children. He was a visionary and a humanitarian and devoted his life to global peace missions. He earned an Honors Masters of Art in (British) English Literature in Pakistan, and was trained as a media officer at the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) in England. Mall was a senior government officer in Pakistan before immigrating to the United States in 1984.

He was one of the pioneers of Pakistan Television, where he enjoyed a nearly 20 year long illustrious career. He produced and directed many award winning shows and documentaries for domestic and international audiences. Along with his government career, he also served in leadership positions for several faith-based and community organizations.

In Washington, his home for 31 years, Mall worked as Director of Communications for the Prison Fellowship Ministry along with founder Charles Colson, former special counsel to President Nixon. In time, Mall started a thriving developer and contracting company which he owned and operated for over 30 years. His profitable business helped fund the nonprofit humanitar-



Samuel Parvez Mall

ian organizations he launched to represent and advance the interests of Pakistani Christians, and to promote global inter-faith harmony.

Mall had travelled to Lahore, Pakistan in May 2015, to develop economic initiatives for impoverished communities. While there, he passed away doing what he loved best – serving people. Over the course of his career and for his lifelong service to humanity around the world, he received many awards and accolades from U.S. and foreign governments, faith-based and community organizations.

He is survived by his wife and companion of nearly 60 years, Rima Mall, their four children and six grandchildren, all of whom reside in the Washington Metro area. He is also survived by an older brother in Pakistan, an older sister in Colorado, and countless people around the world who will remember him as their friend, mentor, guide and spiritual father.



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Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club, Cardroom, 6901 Arthur Hills Dr., Gainesville, VA 20155. RSVP by June 9th at (703) 872-7593 or sfields@thecrossingsatchantilly.com.

UNDERSTANDING VA BENEFITS | Thursday, June 25 | 6:30 to 8 pm
Saul Cardona, M.Div., Community Veteran Liaison, VITAS Healthcare.
Light refreshments will be provided.
Florist United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 13600 Frying Pan Rd., Herndon, VA 20171.
Event is free and open to the public.



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HomeLifeStyle

Repairs Trigger Remodel

Great Falls renovation evolves from basic, needed repairs to an extensive family-friendly remodel.

BY JOHN BYRD

Sometimes a significant home improvement starts with small repair considerations. In fact, as Roger Lataille, senior design consultant at Sun Design Remodeling, recalls, his first discussion with Jeff and Sharon Roman of Great Falls concerned how to solve a water drainage problem.

“There were no gutters over the three garage ports, and rain water splash-back was causing the garage doors to deteriorate,” Lataille said. “Also, the front entrance was too exposed. And the original wooden deck on the back of the house had decayed so badly it wasn’t being used much at all.”

Then there was the problem with woodpeckers regularly attacking the house, a reflection of moisture build-up and bug-infestation under the home’s sprayed-on stucco exterior. Yet rectifying these everyday dys-

functions turned out to be a comparatively small part of the Romans’ agenda, as Lataille soon discovered. As the conversation progressed, the outlines for a sweeping, state-of-the-art makeover began to take shape even as the home’s exterior was gradually re-imagined as an architectural statement fully integrated with its setting.

At 6,500 square feet, the nearly 20-year-old, six bedroom center hall Colonial offered considerable grandeur, yet the facade lacked detail, definition, even warmth.

“There were a lot of distinctive architectural themes in place,” Lataille said. “Our first concern is always helping the owner articulate a program that suits their goals, and then initiating an effective collaboration process.”

With this in mind, the solutions proposed for the home’s front elevations came right to the point. A metal-clad overhang supported by decorative brackets above the ga-

rage doors not only re-directs rain-water into a discrete functional drainage system, but also gives the facade a unifying accent that ties in with the redesigned front entrance.

The defective stucco cladding has been replaced with sand-colored Hardiboard and a stonework “water table” motif that scales back the mass of the looming three level facade, making the whole feel more intimate and approachable.

LIKEWISE, on the rear elevation, opportunities for self-expression quickly became inspirations.

Situated on two rolling acres and surrounded by woodland, the home’s setting provided a sprawling backdrop for an indoor-outdoor solution.

Boasting a southwesterly view from the rear elevation, the existing rear deck was usually bathed in soft sunsets on summer evenings. The visual display was, likewise, available from the house — except the windows were too small and



PHOTO BY GREG HADLEY

The spacious new screened porch demonstrates how highly durable materials can be shaped to meet demanding aesthetics. The Ipe decking chosen for the porch flooring is one of the one of the most enduring natural hardwoods offered for outdoor surfaces; installed in a tongue-and-groove pattern, it keeps out bugs more effectively than screen mesh. The fiberglass charcoal screen, likewise, makes it hard to see the porch interior from the outside.

the only exits to the outside converged in a recessed hyphen joining the two main blocks on the rear of the house.

“Ironically, we’ve always loved spending time outdoors,” Sharon said, “so it’s surprising that we hadn’t changed the exterior of the house in the 13 years we’ve lived here.”

During summer vacations at Deep Creek Lake in Maryland, however, the Romans discovered how much they enjoy sitting by a fire pit

Details

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm has a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com for more.

main components: a 20-foot-by-15-foot screened porch, a 21-foot-by-16-foot grilling deck, a ground level sunken patio that exits from a lower level room, and a stand-alone fire pit with seating for six.

“We were thinking ahead in many ways,” Sharon Roman said. “Jeff and I have elderly parents, and a lot of family in the area. A direct entrance to the lower level, for instance, might make it easy to convert the space into an in-law suite if needed.”

Overall, the Romans sought the capacity to comfortably entertain up to 40 or 50 people.

Of course, for a fete of that size — well-constructed decking is essential. Phase one to the new plan was, thus, a nod to necessity: re-design the decking system to accommodate traffic circulating from directions never previously in the picture.

“We learned immediately that the concrete supporting the existing 20-year-old deck hadn’t been properly set,” Lataille said. “Also, to assure the durability of the deck’s surface, we specified Trex instead of wood, and narrowed the span be-

tween undergirding joists from 16 inches to 12 inches.”

Structurally, the new decking is not only an upgrade, but thoroughly necessary since it’s now directly accessible through oversized double glass doors from the family room, the dining room and the billiards parlor. It’s also linked via a new flagstone walkway to the both fire pit and the new rear entrance to the lower level.

“Access to the outdoors from the house is one of the most fundamental features of an integrated indoor/outdoor solution,” Lataille said. “Bringing the aesthetics of nature into your daily life is a lifestyle change. The goal is to create spaces that can be easily maintained, yet allow owners to comfortably extend the open-air season.”

THE SPACIOUS NEW screened porch demonstrates how highly durable materials can be shaped to meet demanding aesthetics. The Ipe decking chosen as the porch flooring, for instance, is not only one of the most enduring materials offered for outdoor surfaces, but

— installed in a tongue-and-groove pattern — is more effective in keeping out bugs than a screen mesh undergirding. Ipe, which is Brazilian walnut, was also specified for the porch handrails.

Meanwhile, the fiberglass charcoal screen — which makes it hard to see the porch interior from the outside — creates a cozy sense of closure. Overhead, the fir-beaded tongue-and-groove wood ceiling lends a natural burnish to the open-air ambiance.

Taking the lead from other finish work details, the design team installed a stone work “water table” for the porch’s inside wall — a textured backdrop for the wide-screen TV.

Equipped with both overhead fans and portable heaters, the outdoor room is habitable in all but the coldest days of winter.

“It’s really our preferred family room now,” said Sharon Roman. “With overhead fans, shades and other convenient adjustments, we can use the porch from early spring to late fall.”

John Byrd (byrdmatx@comcast.net) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.



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Design Guidelines and DRB Application Forms



JUNE 16, 7 P.M.
Reston Association, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20191

The Reston Association Design Review Board (DRB) will be holding a public hearing during its meeting to discuss changes to the Design Guidelines and DRB application forms. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and the changes will be discussed after other agenda items. The proposed changes can be found online at www.reston.org under Property Owner Resources, Design Review. For more information, contact Barbara Ramey at bramey@reston.org or call 703-435-6573.



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Langley Boys' Soccer Wins Region Championship

The Langley boys' soccer team won the first region championship in program history with a 2-1 victory over Madison on June 5 at Langley High School.

After falling behind, Langley's Jacob Labovitz netted the equalizer and Sam Golan scored the game-winner.

"It felt really good to win the region title," Langley senior Daniel Levetown wrote in an email. "It was very surreal for me. We were down most of the game, and being able to come back and win it in that fashion made it that much better. Nevertheless, we set our goal on winning the state championship. We celebrated after the game, jumped around a little and took some pictures, but we quickly got back to work preparing for the next game. But we do know that this is a very tough region and that it's an honor to take the title."

The victory improved Langley's record to 18-1-1, including a win against Fairfax in the Conference 6 tournament final. The Saxons are 15-0-1 since losing to McLean on April 7.

"Langley has had some great teams in the past and it's a travesty if none of them ever won the regional title," Levetown wrote. "I guess it's up to us to set the record straight and to show everyone what the Langley soccer tradition is all about. I am pleased that we were able to win the region title to represent Langley soccer and all of the great Langley teams and players in the past."

Next up for the Saxons is a state semifinal match against 6A South runner-up James River at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 12 at Robinson Secondary School.

Langley's last appearance in a state final was 2004, when the Saxons lost 1-0 to West Springfield.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Daniel Levetown (10) and the Langley boys' soccer team won the 6A North region title on Friday with a 2-1 victory over Madison.

Helping, with Heavy Hearts

200 walk to support victims of Nepal earthquake

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

When the 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked Nepal in April this year, Madhu and Yashoda Bhandari of Lorton felt the shocks in their United States home. Both are originally from the Nuwakot district, one that was hit violently. Though Madhu's brothers and father live in Nepal's capital Kathmandu and were unharmed, "It was very painful," he said, of seeing the wreckage in the area of his roots. "With monsoon season, they need to have something."

"We have a heavy heart," Madhu's wife Yashoda said. "Every minute you want to do something. We're here to support."

The couple were two of over 200 people who came out early Sunday morning, June 7, as part of the Walk for Nepal fundraiser at Burke Lake Park.

Meekha Mathema, a fifth grade teacher in the Advanced Academic Program at Hunters Woods Elementary School in Reston helped organize the event.

"We had to do something," she said, "a way we could heal. I tried to think of a way I could include children, seniors."

Mathema goes walking at Burke Lake Park every weekend; ultimately she decided it was the perfect place. "It has a nice trail for all of us," she said.

Beginning close to 8 a.m. walkers chose either a one-mile course or the



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 who were deployed to Nepal following the earthquake included (rear from left) Elizabeth Chaney and rescue dog Ventoux, planning manager John Morrison and Ryland Chapman. They joined members of Meekha Mathema's fifth grade class from Hunters Woods Elementary School in Reston in the Walk for Nepal earthquake victims: (front from left) Meekha Mathema, Annabel Lee, Summer Jakubowski, Caelin Rowell, Catherine Pak, Jake Hopp, Siddharth Kairpadi, Colin Simpson, Lauren Hannafin and Lindsey McNulty.

entire loop of Burke Lake — close to five miles.

OVER 200 PEOPLE registered for the walk and even more non-walking donors joined the cause. All told, Mathema estimated the event raised between \$7-\$8,000.

A partnership between her late father's humanitarian nongovernmental organization the Daya Foundation and the United

Nations-affiliated International Association for Human Values allows money donated from the walk to have an instant impact.

Madhu Kadari, a volunteer with the International Association for Human Values who spoke before the walk, said some of the money raised will help fund building temporary shelters for victims of the earthquake. Three hundred shelters are planned, costing \$150 each.

Other International Association for Human Values efforts, with funding of around \$62 million so far, include relief supplies, community shelters that can act as vocational training centers, solar lamps and trauma relief.

"There's a lot of grief and anxiety," Kadari said, explaining the importance of meditation and breathing techniques being taught at relief camps. "The first thing is to get out of the mental trauma."

Also before the walk, Narayan Mainali, Minister Counselor from the embassy of Nepal, thanked the United States Congress for its support of the country in crisis. "Nepal has so many helping hands," he said.

In addition to walking, Mainali encouraged walkers to visit Nepal and support the tourist economy, for business owners to consider expanding into Nepal and buying the country's crafts and carpets.

JOHN MORRISON, a planning manager with Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1, was among the group that was deployed to Nepal as part of the international relief effort. He was recognized before the walk along with fellow Task Force 1 members Elizabeth Chaney, rescue dog Ventoux, and Ryland Chapman. "We were in awe of the Nepalese people," Morrison said.

Ramya Griddahuri of Herndon is in Mathema's fifth grade class. "Where Nepal has been hit, it's scary for them," she said. "I want to help. Doing this walk, I know that I'm helping people."

For more information on the Daya Foundation, visit [dayafoundation.org/np](http://dayafoundation.org/), for the International Association for Human Values, visit www.iahv.org.

CALENDAR

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

THROUGH SUNDAY/JUNE 28

PhotoArt Exhibit. 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Monday - Friday. JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. The Reston Photographic Society, a special-interest group of the League of Reston Artists, showcases photography from members and nonmembers in the annual PhotoArt exhibit.
www.leagueofrestonartists.org

SATURDAYS/MAY 30-SEPT. 5

Reston Concerts on the Town.
7:30-10 p.m. Reston Town Center. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy live music in the Pavilion Saturday nights. Free. Rain or shine. Presented by Reston Town Center and Reston Town Center Association. 703-912-4062.
www.restontowncenter.com/concerts

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 10

Precious Preschoolers. 11 a.m. Herndon Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Jump and Jam: We will rock to stories, songs, and rhymes while we read to the rhythm. Age 3-5 with adult.
Wednesday Morning Book Club. 10:30 a.m. Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Book discussion group.

THURSDAY/JUNE 11

Paint Your Own Pet. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Brown's Chapel, 1575 Brown's Chapel Road, Reston. Paint for a cause by sending in a photo of your pet and it'll be pre-sketches with his/her features onto an 11x14" canvas. During the class, apply painting techniques that will bring your portrait to life. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to local animal shelters. Fee: \$60 per person. Includes all materials, gourmet goody bags and light refreshments. Register online www.TheArtStation.com/RestonPYOP. Info@TheArtStation.com. 703-777-3737.

FRIDAY/JUNE 12

Walking Stick Workshop. 7 - 8 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Ages 5 to 12. School's almost out, and it's time to explore new territory. Make a walking stick that can travel with you on your next hike. Choose the perfect stick, make a leather grip, and with help, engrave your name or initials to make it your own. All supplies included. Reservations required by June 9. Fee: \$7/child RA members, \$9/child Non-members. naturecenter@reston.org. 703-476-9689.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 12-13

2nd Annual Lake Anne Chalk on the Water Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RESTON TOWN CENTER

Love Your Body Yoga Festival will be held June 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street.

Lake Anne Plaza Waterfront, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. If you ever wanted to paint the bricks without getting in trouble, all ages are welcome to paint Lake Anne Plaza in a technicolor hue as participants turn the plaza into a chalk art gallery. \$5-\$15. Register at www.chalkonthewater.com for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 13

A Concert Under the Stars. Each year, Lets Give Back continues to expand their mission of giving back to families that find themselves in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Their "Mini Wolf Trap" will benefit LetsGiveBack.org and their mission to support families in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Two artists will play a private concert. Bring a chair or blanket, sit back and relax to the smooth sounds of Natalie York and Raye Zaragoza. RSVP to kate@letsgiveback.org.

Bushels of Beetles. 11 a.m. - Noon. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. All ages. Beetles are the largest group of insects, and they come in a dazzling array of sizes, shapes and colors. Meet live beetles and decorate your own bug box to take home. Go on a short hike to discover the different places that beetles live. Reservations required by June 10. Fee: \$6/person RA members, \$8/person Non-members. naturecenter@reston.org. 703-476-9689.

Dog Tales. 10:30 a.m. 768 Center Street, Herndon. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog for 15 minutes; bring your own book or choose a book from the library. Ages 5-12. Call 703-437-8855 or sign up at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/he/>.

SUNDAY/JUNE 14

Love Your Body Yoga Festival. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Reston Town Center,

11900 Market Street, Reston. Yoga studios and wellness centers of Northern Virginia will be offering classes, services, and information on ways to care for your body, along with live entertainment and activities for children. Donations to participate in classes benefit Cornerstones. www.belovedyoga.com.

Lake Anne Summer Film Festival: My Big Fat Greek Wedding.

8 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. The free outdoor festival will take place each month on selected Sunday's and will feature some great flicks from classic to comedy. Grab a date, the family or a group of friends, bring the lawn chairs and a picnic and enjoy flicks under the stars.

"Inter-Play" Meet the Artist. 2-4 p.m. Reston Art Gallery & Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza, Reston. A show of a new series of oil and acrylic paintings by Claudia Samper on exhibit from June 5 until July 2. According to Samper: "Inter-Play explores the world of opposites and of dreams where the unimaginable becomes tangible. Objects are de-contextualized and re-arranged in an attempt to perceive a new reality."

Native Plants as Herbal Remedies. 1:30 - 3 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Adults. Many native plants have been recognized for therapeutic properties. Explore some traditional uses as well as some modern day research. There will be a presentation followed by a native plant walk. Reservations required by June 11. Fee: \$6/person RA members, \$8/person Non-members. naturecenter@reston.org. 703-476-9689.

Sunday Afternoon Dance. 2:30-4:30 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Dancers of all skill levels are welcome to foxtrot, swing, cha-cha,

and waltz during these fun afternoon dances. Music selection ranges from golden oldies to today's more modern dance selections. Door prizes and light refreshments add to the fun; partners are not required. Tickets: \$5-\$10.

MONDAY/JUNE 15

Discovery Time I. 9 a.m. Lake Fairfax, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Oceans Week Theme-based activities such as games, crafts, special projects and hikes help children discover these wonders of science. Bring snack, lunch and drink daily. An activity fee is due on the first day (\$5 for 4-hr camps).

Mr. Knick Knack! Children's Performance. 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. 11900 Market St, Reston. Unique, heart-centered music for kids and their grown-ups! Presented by Reston Town Center. Free. www.restontowncenter.com.

TUESDAY/JUNE 16

Pokémon Club. 2:30 p.m. 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Come by to learn how to play Pokémon and play with friends. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rr/>.

THURSDAY/JUNE 18

Owl Prowl. 7 - 8:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. All ages. Meet a wildlife rehabilitator from the Raptor Conservancy to view live owls native to Virginia. Afterwards prowl trails along The Glade Stream Valley in search of resident owls. Reservations required by June 15. Fee: \$7/person RA members · \$9/person Non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

THURSDAY/JUNE 18-SEPT. 3

Take a Break Concert Series. 7-9 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Listen to some great music live.

FRIDAY/JUNE 19

School's Out for Summer Pool Party. 4-7 p.m. Golf Course Island Pool, 11301 Links Drive, Reston. Come to the Hawaiian-themed pool party to celebrate the end of school. There will be a DJ and a cookout to include hamburgers, hotdogs, drinks & dessert. Be sure to wear your Hawaiian print shirts and swim suits. Co-sponsored by Reston Community Center.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 19-21

Taste of Reston. Friday: 3-11 p.m.; Saturday: noon-11 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Carnival games and rides with a family fun zone. Visit www.restontaste.com for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 20

Family Fun Entertainment Series: Pinot & Augustine Show. 10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Reston Town Square Park. Performed by the incomparable Mark Jaster and Sabrina Mandell. Fun, knock-about comedy and classic physical mime antics. Augustine is the star. Pinot is trying to steal the show. Hilarity ensues as these two mute fools try to prove who is who with gentle humor and playful interaction. Presented by the Reston Community Center. Free. restoncommunitycenter.com.

Fishing with Fathers. 10:30 a.m. - Noon. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. All ages. Take Dad fishing to celebrate Father's Day. Join us at Lake Audubon to learn fish facts, fishing basics and practice casting. We'll provide rods and bait. Those 16 and older wishing to fish will need a fishing license available online at www.dgif.state.va.us. Reservations required by June 17. Fee: \$7/person RA members, \$9/person Non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

Rocknoceros. 2:30 p.m. 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Coach Cotton, Williebob and Boogie Woogie Bennie play award-winning music for the whole family. Please sign up each child and adult separately. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rr/>.

SUNDAY/JUNE 21

T-Ball II. 10 a.m. Lake Fairfax, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/>.
Herndon Garden Tour. 12-4 p.m. 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. The tour features elegant gardens at Herndon homes. The tour is self-guided; suggested tour route and directions are provided. Tickets available in advance or the day of the tour. 703-435-6800 x2222. herndon-va.gov. Tickets: \$10-\$15.

MONDAY/JUNE 22

The Wonderful World of Bats. 7 p.m. 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Learn about bats and make a bat T-shirt. Bring a white or light colored T-shirt or buy shirt for \$4.

TUESDAY/JUNE 23

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon Concert. 7:15 p.m. Amphora Diner Deluxe, 1151 Elden Street, Herndon. Artists Pat Wictor, Joe Jencks and Greg Greenway will perform as Brother Sun. Fusing folk, Americana, blues and pop, as well as a cappella singing, Brother Sun is an explosion of musical diversity. Tickets: DAHurdSr@cs.com or at the door. \$13-\$14.

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Philosophically Speaking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently I attended a "Celebration of Life" event, sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, created to bring attention to, and educate the public on, cancer. As a long-time cancer survivor, nearly six and a half years now - and one treated by doctors at Kaiser, I was asked, along with a cervical cancer survivor, to sit on a "survivor panel"; to share our cancer experiences, and offer, along with two oncologists and a pulmonologist, our respective insights as "treater" and "treatee."

As you regular readers know, my story, based on the available statistical indicators at the time, is a miracle. Lung cancer is a killer, almost always. Survivors who live beyond two years are rare enough; beyond five years, rarer still. However, given the evolution of the research and new drugs brought to market, there are more lung cancer survivors than ever before. And the more survivors I meet, the more empowered I become regarding my own life expectancy.

Which, if a cancer patient thinks too much about, the shorter - in my opinion, it will be. As a practical consideration though, how do you not focus on the most important thing in your life; that thing being your lung cancer diagnosis. A diagnosis your oncologist has advised you will likely result in a rather disappointing prognosis. But somehow, from my perspective anyhow, that's exactly what patients/survivors have to do; agree and proceed, sort of.

Moreover, how does one make light of something (your "terminal" disease/ "13-month to two-year prognosis") which is incredibly heavy? And how does one not get depressed about something (again, your diagnosis) which is terribly depressing? And finally, how does one stay positive and find humor/balance, when cancer is the definition of negative and imbalance, and is, as the old expression says: "Funny as a heart attack"? It all seems and feels counter-intuitive. It reminds me of the Seinfeld episode when, out of desperation, George decided to act opposite to his instincts: "My name is George. I'm unemployed and I live with my parents;" which resulted in his meeting an attractive woman at the diner and getting his Assistant-to-the-Travelling-Secretary job with the New York Yankees. Yet somehow, following this path of least resistance has worked - for me. Inexplicable. Random? Lucky? Misguided? Inadvisable? Rhyme or reason? If I think too much about it, I'm afraid I'll weaken the nation. All I know is: since it ain't broke, I'm not looking to fix it.

Certainly there have been struggles: I'm not going to pretend otherwise. Still, living is its own reward, and having survived now way beyond my initial prognosis, I'd like to think that I'm further from the beginning than I am closer to the end. But who knows, really? And what good comes from asking myself that question anyway? I can't get an answer, obviously; and of course, any guarantees are long gone. Somehow I have to continue to trick myself into not caring: the opposite of all my instincts. It worked for George and so far, it's worked for me. Now, if I can only leave well enough alone. That would truly be a miracle.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING



The public is invited to attend the Reston Community Center Annual Public Hearing for Programs and Budget.

Monday, June 15

6:30 p.m. • RCC Hunters Woods

Comments may be sent to RCCContact@fairfaxcounty.gov if you cannot attend.



Summer Trips with RCC

Once, The Musical
Kennedy Center
55 years and older

Theatrically breathtaking, this eight-time 2012 Tony Award-winning musical tells the enchanting tale of a Dublin street musician who's about to give up on his dream when a beautiful young woman takes a sudden interest in his haunting love songs. Trip fee includes transportation and admission.

\$90 (R)/\$180 (NR) • Tuesday, July 14 • 5:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. • Reg. #500356-6A

Wolf Trap Farm Park
3 – 9 years old

Nestled in a beautiful setting, Wolf Trap Farm Park offers families the opportunity to see live performances in the outdoor theatre, many of which may include music, dance, puppetry, and storytelling. Parents and children must register.

\$6 (R)/\$12 (NR) • Thursday, August 6 • 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. • Reg. #902032-6A

Kings Dominion Trip
13 – 18 years old

Teens, spend a day at Kings Dominion with friends. Parents, please be advised that although this trip is chaperoned, participants will be on their own in the park but required to check-in several times during the day. Fee includes amusement park admission, transportation, and trip coordinators. Participants must bring money for lunch and dinner. Middle and high school students only.

\$30 (R)/\$60 (NR) • Saturday, August 15 • 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. • Reg. #806003-6A

Day at Ocean City Beach
6 years and older

Visit Ocean City, MD on another exciting RCC family adventure. Enjoy the boardwalk or just relax and soak in the sun. Participants will be on their own throughout the day and must bring money for lunch and dinner. All participants must register and children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult guardian. Fee includes transportation and trip coordinators.

\$30 (R)/\$60 (NR) • Saturday, August 29 • 6:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. • Reg. #804841-6A



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